

should he speak the truth hereafter, he will not be believed.

Among the extraordinary schemes which the war has given us an opportunity of projecting, the extensive one of speculation must not be forgot.—In our present inquiry, the speculators are undoubtedly entitled to a place.—Are they honest?—It is to be hoped so, for there are many of them, and some of them are honourable men.—Yet if we examine their conduct, and compare it with the gospel precept, a reconciliation can hardly be effected.

Have they done as they would be done by?—Few, I believe, of the many who have risen by speculation would choose to be speculated on, or would in that case assent to the plausible reasons urged in defence of the practice.—Every man has not his own.—Yet every man has got what his commodity would procure.—They have hurt many men.—Yet these men would have been hurt by others; and if the business was to be done, who so proper as our friends and countrymen to do it.—The sufferer here may be compared to the unfortunate man, when a ship's crew draw lots for their lives; who though he sees death inevitable before him, has the consoling presentiment, that he shall be devoured by his own friends, and that he only dies that they may live.

Thus some of our soldiers, who have escaped the danger of the field, may yet (if starving is an honourable death) have the satisfaction of dying for the good of their country.

The matter might however have been worse.—A number of this class of men, might have procured seats in our legislature, and might have been actuated by motives of self-interest, to withhold even what it was in their power to give, from the men who had procured their peace and freedom.—They might have enacted laws by which themselves alone could benefit, and like the wolf in the fable, have devoured the sheep, which they insidiously procured the charge of.—Would their conduct have been honest?—But am I giving an honest state of the case by thus dealing in supposition?—No!—It is honest and true to say that all this has been done, and that the interest of the army has been repeatedly sacrificed to the emolument of those who have been the betrayers instead of the guardians of their rights.

Will it be necessary to produce instances in support of a charge, which though little regarded, is so generally acknowledged?—A retrospect to the stages of the depreciation certificates will be sufficient on this occasion.

I contend that the state was able to have effected the purpose for which they were given, by the funds which we then possessed, and which have been so much more unworthily disposed of. Confiscated property sold by the state may now be paid for in depreciated paper.—Why could not that have been allowed at a time when the original holder might have benefited by it?

Why are they now taken instead of specie, to benefit those who have obtained them in so early a manner?—Why were they not funded and the interest paid on them, before the law-makers had got them into possession?

And why did the state employ an agent to speculate on distressed of its own enacting?—Let the men who have done these things, answer, and answer honestly if they can.

Heavens!—That an independent state, instead of acting with generosity and honour, should thus pitifully speculate and traffic, and by the pernicious example of public and open dishonesty give a sanction to every species of private injustice.

Why is an ill-judged lenity to be used on some occasions, while unmerited hardships are imposed on others?—Why, I repeat it, are the purchasers of confiscated property, and other public debtors, allowed to pay less than their just debts, to the injury of those who have the most equitable claims against the state.

A little reflection on our past conduct and our present situation, will convince us, that honesty would have been the best policy, and may be so still if yet we can find its path, and surely when we have got so near to destruction, it is time to turn from the road that has led us to it.

In proportion as public bodies are more powerful and important than individuals, public dishonesty must be more injurious than that of a private nature. Yet is the first species given into without remorse by men who are free from reproach with regard to the latter.

Whether in our future policy, honesty will be more apparent, or whether if it should, we are in the reach of such a remedy, it may be difficult to determine.

Certain it is, that our public dishonesty has produced its natural consequences, poverty and ill-fame, and we must endeavour to remove the one, in order to reinstate ourselves from the other.

Do we consider the view in which we must now be held by foreign nations?—Can we hope to be trusted by them?—I believe not; and perhaps the despair of obtaining it in this way, might be an argument in favour of making money ourselves, if foreigners would trust us so far as to receive it.—The fear is that they know us too well, either to give or take.

A plan has been proposed of borrowing a considerable sum, for the purpose of discharging our domestic debt. Without examining strictly into the intended application of the money, I think I shall

be safe in predicting that it will not be possible to procure it.

Setting other reasons aside, the disclosure of the intended use of it seems fatal to the proposition; it appears to me, to bear some analogy to the following case:

A is considerably in debt to B. but understanding that B. has given notes which may be bought in at a great discount, he applies to C. to borrow a sum of money to purchase them with, making promises of punctual payment with large interest for the use of it.—C. may at first be tempted by the offer; but I should suppose the following reflections may suggest themselves to him:—The debt from A. to B. was fairly contracted and honestly due, yet these are the methods which he adopts for the payment of it; what have I to expect from such principles, and what security is there that I too shall not be a sufferer by them.

Thus will our policy deprive us of that assistance which honesty would have given us a right to demand, and a chance to obtain.

The scheme of purchasing continental securities, is however of so tempting a nature, that it is almost fruitless to expect that the dictates of honesty will turn us from it, or rather I may say that our minds are too much swayed by interest to suffer us to distinguish honesty from fraud, or right from wrong.—We are called upon by congress to comply with their requisitions, and to enable them to be honest.—In vain do they call.—We are bent on the fascinating projects of cheating them and cheating each other.

Each state is striving, and in so honourable a race, who would wish to be out-done;—short sighted mortals, while thus preying on each other and striving to defraud your domestic creditors, too soon may your foreign ones reprobate your policy, and reach you the honesty from which you are so far estranged.

What—Say our politicians.—Pay a debt with five pounds, when we can discharge it with one?—Absurd and ridiculous!—So it may be, to pay a debt in specie when it can be cancelled by depreciated paper; but it is honest.

It was well observed by a member of the assembly, that from the sweat of our brows our debts must be paid. If they are honestly paid, that must be the way, however we may flatter ourselves with the hope of twisting ourselves out of our difficulties by artifice and speculation.

In the contemplation of our politic scheme of buying certificates with the public money, the honest one of paying the original holders of them, or enabling congress to do it, is forgot.

Upon the whole, our prospect is sufficiently black; we have the horrors of poverty, without any consciousness, innocence to support us.—We have a sad and certain retrospect of our misconduct, without a probability of amendment, and we have a weight of misfortunes, without expecting or deserving either pity or assistance.

There can be but one way left—it must be in a contrary direction from that which we have pursued. It must be by endeavouring to do good and to avoid evil.

We must avoid speculation, extravagance, idleness and fraud, and become frugal, industrious and honest.

We must pay our debts when we can, and when we do, let it be substantially, and to the full amount of what we justly owe.

We may then enjoy ease and content among ourselves, and credit and respect among other nations, and be convinced by so prosperous a change that *Honesty is the best Policy.*

Anne Arundel county, April 9, 1787.

L O N D O N, December 18.

Extract of a letter from Cowes.

THE following remarkable instance of credulity and affection happened here the other day.

Some months ago, the landlord of the Fountain Inn died, leaving behind a disconsolate widow, one daughter, and a daughter-in-law, who were inconsolable for their good father. One evening last week, as a person was walking about the church-yard, and happening to be very near the tomb of the landlord, he heard a long and strong breathing, as a person oppressed. He looked round, thinking somebody near him, but seeing no person, and hearing the same breathing again, he drew nearer the tomb, when he directly heard the breathing in the tomb, as he thought, which surprised him so much, that he ran into the town, and declared the landlord was not dead; for he had heard him very distinctly breathe. Curiosity drew to the church-yard an immense crowd of people, and the report having reached the Fountain, the widow and daughters were not a little surprised, and were soon after flattered with the hopes of seeing a beloved husband and father, by one of their acquaintance running to tell them that he was certainly yet alive, and was heard by every body in the church-yard to fetch his breath long and heavy, as if waiting to get out. Pick axes and shovels were immediately ordered to remove the stones and earth; all Cowes attended, and the enraptured widow was ready to receive and press to her bosom her long absent though not dead husband. Just as they were about to break down the tomb, a gentleman happened to be passing, who, surprised to see the

church-yard filled with people, stepped up to know what was the matter. Having heard the story, he listened, and very distinctly heard the breathing; but instantly declared, they were all mistaken, for it was the noise of young owls, and looking up to the eaves of a house just by, discovered the nest. A ladder was brought, and four young owls taken, to the great joy of all present, but the enraptured widow and her daughter, who returned home in sorrow and despair, leaving the ashes of the dead undisturbed.

The above is an absolute fact, and had not the discovery taken place, the tomb would have been opened; but the ignorant and superstitious would ever have imagined it was something supernatural which they had heard.

B E R M U D A, February 17.

A letter from Mogadore, dated October 24, says, "The English vice-consul has procured the release of eleven persons, subjects to England, who have been imprisoned upwards of eleven years at or near Tetuan; one of them is an American by birth, born at Boston; they are gone to Gibraltar from hence in a cutter, from whence they will be dispatched to England."

B O S T O N, March 29.

On Tuesday last arrived in town, ensign Stoddard, of the federal troops, from Great Barrington, in the county of Berkshire, which place he left on Saturday last. By him we are informed, that the honorable the justices of the supreme judicial court, arrived at Great Barrington, on the 18th instant, attended by general Shepard, and a number of respectable gentlemen, from the county of Hampshire; and on the Tuesday following the court commenced their session, without the least interruption, when the honorable judge Cushing gave a spirited and solemn charge to the grand jury, which was composed of gentlemen of the first character in the county, as were three full petit juries, returned to serve at that court; that in the afternoon of Tuesday, the rebels taken in the action at Sheffield, on the 27th of February last, together with others of a like description, under a strong guard commanded by colonel Newell, were brought in from Pittsfield, and that general Lincoln, and the other gentlemen commissioners, were at Great Barrington when he left that place.

By this gentleman we also learn, that some of the fugitive rebels, in a paroxysm of revenge, in the night of the 19th instant set fire to a store owned by Messrs. Penfold and Bacon, of Sheffield, but which stood in Nohletown, in New-York, near the line of this state, which was entirely consumed, together with about six hundred pounds of property contained therein, and on the 13th, a barn belonging to Mr. Benjamin, of Egremont, was also set fire to, and together with the grain, hay, &c. destroyed. Several of the incendiaries, suspected as concerned in the above transactions, were taken and confined in gaol, but unfortunately broke out a few days after, and made their escape; that though the rebellion appears to be crushed, yet many people in the western counties appear to be under fearful apprehensions from threats thrown out by the rebels, (who are harboured in the state of Vermont) of returning as soon as the weather will permit, and satiating their revenge on individuals, by the destruction of their persons and property, and that from appearances it will require the strictest unanimity in the friends to government, and the utmost wisdom and perseverance in our rulers, to restore peace to that distracted part of the commonwealth.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, April 10.

Extract of a letter from Glasgow, January 17.

On Saturday the 6th instant, between ten and eleven in the forenoon, a shock of an earthquake was felt in the parishes of Campsie and Strathblane, about ten miles north of this city. At Woodhead, in Campsie, a burp, on which there is a mill, became dry in several places, for a short space. At Lettrick Green, in the parish of Strathblane, a gentleman who was in the fields, and who had resided many years in Jamaica, heard a rushing noise precede the shock, which he thought came in a direction from the S. E. He likewise observed the hedges to be agitated as if a sudden gust of wind had assailed them, though it was then still. At Netbertown, in the same parish, the shock was more sensibly felt, and the people were so alarmed as to run out to the fields, their houses shook to. Many others felt the shock, and in different houses, doors that had been locked were thrown open; china dishes and bottles tingled, by striking against one another. The horses in a plough that was at work stood still with fear. The shock was likewise felt in the parishes of New-Kilpatrick, Killearn and Fintray.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Worcester, to the editor of the Worcester Magazine, dated March 17.

"SIR,

"Would inform you of a singular circumstance which happened in this town on Tuesday last. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon a heavy rumbling noise was heard in a mountain in the south-east part of the town, at several times, for the space of 20 or 30 minutes, when all of a sudden it was seen by one Mr. Gold, who lived at the foot of the mountain, to break forth, and the rocks and dirt to move in vast bodies; soon after the first were discovered, rocks and dirt were seen to fly in the air, though the main body made its way down the mountain. Mr. Gold